GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4568
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2000
MILITANCY IN NORTH EAST
M. JAGANNATH;RAM SAJEEVAN;RAMCHANDRA PASWAN;VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding paying of huge money by the Assame multinational tea company to the National Democratic Front of Bodoland appearing in the `Asian Age` dated August 4, 2000;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the tea companies and other industries in the North Eastern Region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Some cases of extortion of money from tea estates in Assam by the militant outfits including National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) have come to the notice of the Government. However, exact amount of extortion is not known as the managements of tea estates are hesitant to share information with the Government.

(c): The Assam Tea Plantation Security Force (ATPSF) was set up to provide security to vulnerable tea gardens in Assam. The tea industry has been advised by the state Government to induct the Assam Tea Plantation Security Force in the tea gardens of Barak Valley in Assam. The State Governments have been sensitised and action taken against militant outfits, indulging in extortion in tea gardens and other industries in the North Eastern region.